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CHRISTMAS GIFT SECTION

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Population Explosion Centered In Southern California Area

The impact of California's population explosion has been centered in the Southern California area, where in recent years two-thirds of the state's increase has occurred. Security First National Bank's research reports that the maturation of the Los Angeles metropolitan area and the intensity of growth within Los Angeles County in particular, largely explains the Southland's growth pattern.

DURING THE 27-month period just passed, the county has added more than 370,000 persons to the total reported

by the April 1961 census, reaching over 6,410,500 at mid-1962.

This was more than the combined total population of the state's 44 northernmost counties and greater than that recorded in 43 states, Security said.

The steadily disappearing supply of vacant land available for residential construction has meant that the largest population gains have been recorded in the outlying areas of the county.

Showing the biggest numerical increase between 1960 and 1962 were: Pomona-Foothill

area, 80,600; San Fernando Valley area, 73,400; South Coast area, 47,440; and the Whittier-Norwalk area, 39,120.

TURNING TO the overall Southland scene, the most dynamic growth areas in terms of percentage increases are Santa Barbara, Orange, Kings and Ventura counties.

Their population was expanded by 26.2, 25.4, 19.9 and 18.4 per cent, respectively, since the 1960 census. Other counties whose growth rates exceeded the statewide average of 8.8 per cent include Riverside, (14.6); San Diego,

(13.0); San Luis Obispo, (12.7); and San Bernardino, (9.5). Los Angeles County had a low percentage figure of 5.9 per cent, yet it added a greater number of residents to its 1960 census base than the combined numerical increase of the five leading growth counties, Security First Bank noted.

THE IMPORTANCE of immigration is evident in most rapidly growing counties, the

bank's researchers point-out. Santa Barbara—home of Vandenberg Air Force Base, an expanding University of California campus and a number of new industrial facilities—currently depends upon immigration for 85 per cent of its growth.

The county's July 1, 1962, estimate showed more than 213,000 persons in the area. According to State Department of Finance projections, the

total may reach 400,000 by 1975.

Vigorous industrial and residential construction in Orange County have sparked its population boom. The county's mid-1962 figure of 882,500 is more than four times the April, 1950 total of 216,224. Immigration has been responsible for approximately 85 per cent of the gain.

Ventura County, having added 36,662 to its 1960 popula-

tion of 199,138—75 per cent by immigration to double its size within 10 years, the bank's report said.

IN GENERAL, the state's increasing population—estimated at 17,094,000 on July 1, 1962—has a different implication for each sector of the economy.

To those engaged in real estate and residential construction, retail trade, the pub-

lic utilities and other similar industry, a migration adding 1,000 civilian residents to the state daily has assured a high level of demand.

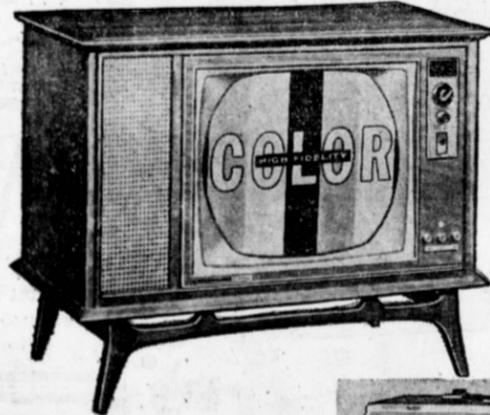
On the other hand, a total population growth of 600,000 persons annually presents a challenge to California's food industry, natural resources, transportation and educational facilities, as well as to state and local governments.

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